



# Air Force Base Conversion Agency

## NEWS RELEASE

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### AIR FORCE REMOVES DAMAGED ASBESTOS MATERIAL FROM FORMER KELLY HOUSING UNITS

**San Antonio, Texas** – The Air Force Base Conversion Agency began removing damaged asbestos containing material from three former military housing buildings at 309, 311 and 313 Calgary Street today. Vandals broke into the housing units and did thousands of dollars worth of damage. AFBCA discovered the damage to the vacant buildings on August 14.

The vandals did extensive damage to sheet rock walls in these buildings. The paste used to hang the sheet rock walls contained asbestos. As a result of the vandalism, asbestos fibers in the paste might have been released inside the apartments. The buildings have been boarded up to prevent entry and further vandalism.

Asbestos abatement specialists are removing the damaged sheet rock in the buildings. Signs warning of a potential health risk from asbestos inside the buildings will be posted at entries during the removal project. Loose asbestos fiber in these apartments will not affect people outside the buildings. The buildings will be sealed and debris will be bagged before being removed. The project should be completed within 10 days. AFBCA has distributed a community bulletin on this project to people living in this area.

Prior to the vandalism the apartments were awaiting transfer from the AFBCA to the City of San Antonio.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that was commonly used in construction prior to the 1980s. It becomes a potential health risk only when fibers are released into the air through breakage of the materials containing asbestos. Inhalation of asbestos fibers can lead to lung disease and cancer.

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